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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ING, MATTHEW W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/801,565	KIM, YOUNG-NAM	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matthew W. Ing	3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6 and 8-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

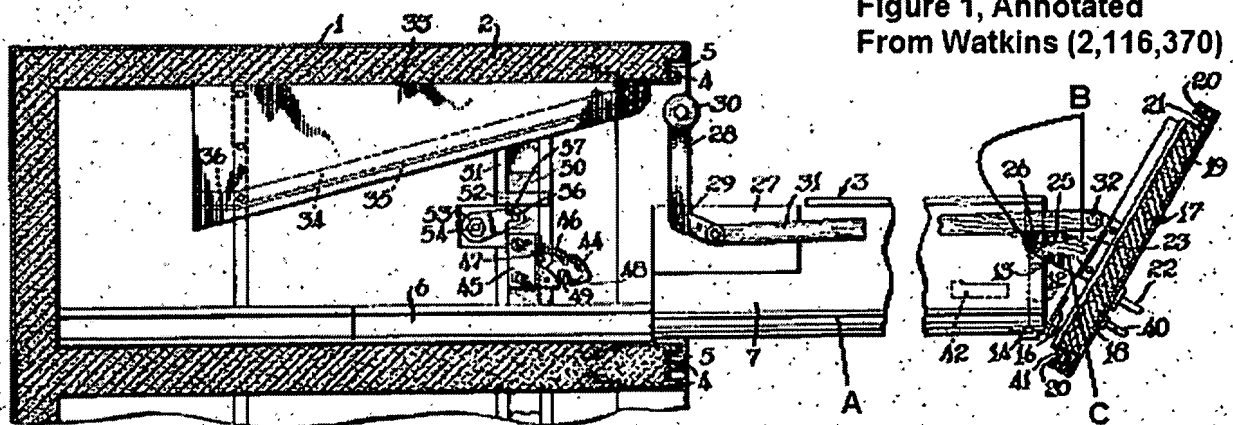
1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Regarding claims 1 and 5, the inclusion of the term "the storage box" renders the claim(s) indefinite, since it is unclear whether this term actually denotes a component of the claimed invention, or is merely included for illustrative purposes. For the purposes of examination, the examiner is considering that the term "the storage box" is not part of the claimed invention; but rather that it is included merely for illustrative purposes.
3. Claims 3-6 and 8-13 are considered indefinite since they depend from indefinite base claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 4-6, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watkins (2,116,370) in view of DE3221073.
5. Watkins teaches the structure substantially as claimed, including: a door (17) configured to selectively open and close a storage space in a refrigerator body (1), by being drawn out and pushed into the refrigerator body in a manner in which a drawer is moved, the door being capable of being pivoted about a lower end of the door (see Figure 1); at least one support frame (7) hingedly connected (16) to a rear surface of the door thereby creating a hinge connection (16) to allow the door (17) to pivot about the lower end of the door (17) and inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to be seated behind the door (see Figure 1); at least one movable rail (Item A of Figure 1, Annotated) formed on the support frame (7) and configured to be engaged with at least

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one guide rail (6) formed on an inner surface of a side wall of the refrigerator body (1) and guide movement of the at least one support frame (see column 2, lines 3-4); and at least one cover bracket (i.e., the portion of Item 23 below Item 25 - Item C in Figure 1 Annotated) protruding backward from the rear surface of the door (17) and configured to cover a gap between the support frame (7) and the rear surface of the door (17) and the hinge connection (16); wherein said cover bracket is at a position adjacent to and outward of the at least one support frame (7) and hinge connection (16) with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the storage box; wherein the at least one cover bracket is formed separate from the at least one support frame (7) and the hinge connection (16). The examiner points out that the drawer-type door in the structure of Watkins is inherently capable of allowing an appropriately-size storage box to be seated behind the door. The examiner also points out that the phrase "refrigerator body" can encompass any insulated structure that is capable of holding items typically stored in refrigerators (e.g., meats, fruits, vegetables, eggs, frozen dinners, etc.). The examiner also points out that the cover bracket (C) of Watkins covers at least a portion of the triangular gap between the support frame (7), the rear surface of the door (17), and the hinge connection (16).



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6. The only difference between Watkins and the invention as claimed is that Watkins fails to teach a cover bracket capable of completely covering a triangular space between the support frame, the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection when the door is opened.

7. DE3221073, however, teaches a cover bracket (9) capable of completely covering a triangular space between a support frame (11), the rear surface of a door (5), and a hinge connection (10) when the door is opened. See Figure 1.

8. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the cover bracket of the structure of Watkins to completely cover the triangular space between the support frame, the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection of said structure, as taught by DE3221073, in order to improve the aesthetic appearance & safety of said structure, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

9. Regarding claims 1 & 5, the specific location for the cover bracket mentioned in these claims is viewed as being taught by Watkins. See Item 2, above. DE3221073 is viewed merely as teaching the extension of a cover bracket so as to completely cover the triangular space between the door, support frame, and hinge connection.

10. Regarding claim 2, in the structure of Watkins, the cover bracket (C) is located outside of the support frame (7) when the door (17) stands upright. See Figures 2-3.

11. Regarding claim 4, Watkins teaches a structure wherein the door (17) further includes at least one tilting latch formed at one side of the rear surface of the door (17), the door having a lower end hingedly assembled (16) with the support frame (7), the tilting latch having a latch jaw (i.e., those portions of Item 23 located behind and above Item 25 - designated as Item B in Figure 1 Annotated) and the support frame (7) having a

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stopper pin (26), wherein the latch jaw (B) and the stopper pin (26) can be engaged with each other to limit a range within which the door can be pivoted (see Figures 1 and 3).

12. Regarding claim 6, the structure of Watkins includes at least one movable rail (Item A of Figure 1, Annotated) formed on the support frame (7); and at least one guide rail (6) formed on an inner surface of a side wall of the refrigerator body (1), wherein the guide rail (6) is engaged with the movable rail (A), and guides movement of the support frame (see column 2, lines 3-4).

13. Regarding claim 7, in the structure of Watkins, the cover bracket (C) is located outside of the support frame (7) when the door stands upright. See Figures 2-3.

14. Regarding claims 12 and 13, the examiner points out that DE3221073 can be viewed as merely teaching a cover bracket (9) capable of completely covering a triangular space between a support frame (11), the rear surface of a door (5), and a hinge connection (10) when the door is opened. Whereas the structure of Watkins already possesses a hinge connection, the examiner submits that modifying said structure in view of DE3221073 would not require replacing said hinge connection with the hinge connection taught by DE3221073, but rather would merely involve extending the cover bracket of said structure so that it completely covered the triangular gap between said hinge connection, the door and the support frame.

15. Claims 3, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watkins (2,116,370) and DE3221073 as applied to the claims, further in view of Jenkins (5,487,239). Watkins and DE3221073 teach the structure substantially as claimed above, including a drawer-type refrigerator door wherein said door is capable of being pivoted about the lower end of said door, the only difference being Watkins and DE3221073 fail

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to teach a door basket for storing an object, said door basket being disposed at an upper portion of the rear surface of the refrigerator door. Jenkins, however, teaches the inclusion of a door basket (46) for storing an object, said door basket being disposed at an upper portion of the rear surface of the refrigerator door. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the door basket of Jenkins into the door of the structure of Watkins as modified by DE3221073 in order to provide a space for storing butter or eggs, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

16. Regarding claim 9, Watkins teaches a structure wherein the door (17) further includes at least one tilting latch formed at one side of the rear surface of the door (17), the door having a lower end hingedly assembled (16) with the support frame (7), the tilting latch having a latch jaw (i.e., those portions of Item 23 located behind and above Item 25 - designated Item B in Figure 1 Annotated) and the support frame (7) having a stopper pin (26), wherein the latch jaw (B) and the stopper pin (26) can be engaged with each other to limit a range within which the door can be pivoted (see Figures 1 and 3).

17. Claims 10 and 11, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meek (2,711,944) in view of Watkins (2,116,370) and DE3221073.

18. Meek teaches the structure substantially as claimed, including a refrigerator body (10); a door (25) configured to selectively open and close a storage space in the refrigerator body (10), by being drawn out and pushed into the refrigerator body (10) in a manner in which a drawer is moved (see Figure 2); at least one support frame (31) that is inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to be seated behind the door (see Figure 2); at least one movable rail (80) formed on the support frame and

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configured to be engaged with at least one guide rail (63) formed on an inner surface of a side wall of the refrigerator body (10) to guide movement of the support frame (see Figure 4).

19. The only difference between structure of Meek and the invention as claimed is that, Meek fails to teach a door capable of being pivoted about a lower end of the door; at least one support frame hingedly connected to a rear surface of the door thereby creating a hinge connection to allow the door to pivot about the lower end of the door and inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to be seated behind the door; and at least one cover bracket protruding backward from the rear surface of the door and configured to completely cover a gap between the support frame and the rear surface of the door and the hinge connection when the door is opened.

20. Watkins, however, teaches a door (17) capable of being pivoted about a lower end of the door (see Figure 1); at least one support frame (7) hingedly connected (16) to a rear surface of the door thereby creating a hinge connection (16) to allow the door (17) to pivot about the lower end of the door (17) and inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to be seated behind the door (see Figure 1); and at least one cover bracket (i.e., the portion of Item 23 below Item 25 - Item C in Figure 1 Annotated) protruding backward from the rear surface of the door (17) and configured to cover a gap between the support frame (7) and the rear surface of the door (17) and the hinge connection (16); wherein said cover bracket is at a position adjacent to and outward of the at least one support frame (7) and hinge connection (16) with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the storage box; wherein the at least one cover bracket is formed separate from the at least one support frame (7) and the hinge connection (16). The

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examiner points out that the cover bracket (C) of Watkins covers at least a portion of the triangular gap between the support frame (7), the rear surface of the door (17), and the hinge connection (16) when the door is opened.

21. Additionally, DE3221073 teaches a cover bracket (9) capable of completely covering a triangular space between a support frame (11), the rear surface of a door (5), and a hinge connection (10) when the door is opened. See Figure 1.

22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to replace the door in the structure of Meek with the pivoting door taught by Watkins in order to allow objects to be more easily positioned within, and removed from the refrigerator; and to modify the cover bracket of the structure of Watkins to completely cover the triangular space between the support frame, the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection of said structure, as taught by DE3221073, in order to improve the aesthetic appearance & safety of said structure, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

23. Regarding claims 1 & 5, the specific location for the cover bracket mentioned in these claims is viewed as being taught by Watkins. See Item 2, above. DE3221073 is viewed merely as teaching the extension of a cover bracket so as to completely cover the triangular space between the door, support frame, and hinge connection. Claims 1, 5, 12, and 13 can be alternately rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watkins (2,116,370) in view of Jacobs (2,731,319).

24. Watkins teaches the structure substantially as claimed, including: a door (17) configured to selectively open and close a storage space in a refrigerator body (1), by being drawn out and pushed into the refrigerator body in a manner in which a drawer is moved, the door being capable of being pivoted about a lower end of the door (see Figure

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1); at least one support frame (7) hingedly connected (16) to a rear surface of the door thereby creating a hinge connection (16) to allow the door (17) to pivot about the lower end of the door (17) and inherently capable of having a storage box for storing an object to be seated behind the door (see Figure 1); at least one movable rail (Item A of Figure 1, Annotated) formed on the support frame (7) and configured to be engaged with at least one guide rail (6) formed on an inner surface of a side wall of the refrigerator body (1) and guide movement of the at least one support frame (see column 2, lines 3-4); and at least one cover bracket (i.e., the portion of Item 23 below Item 25 - Item C in Figure 1 Annotated) protruding backward from the rear surface of the door (17) and configured to cover a gap between the support frame (7) and the rear surface of the door (17) and the hinge connection (16); wherein said cover bracket is at a position adjacent to and outward of the at least one support frame (7) and hinge connection (16) with respect to a central longitudinal axis of the storage box; wherein the at least one cover bracket is formed separate from the at least one support frame (7) and the hinge connection (16). The examiner points out that the drawer-type door in the structure of Watkins is inherently capable of allowing an appropriately-size storage box to be seated behind the door. The examiner also points out that the phrase "refrigerator body" can encompass any insulated structure that is capable of holding items typically stored in refrigerators (e.g., meats, fruits, vegetables, eggs, frozen dinners, etc.). The examiner also points out that the cover bracket (C) of Watkins covers at least a portion of the triangular gap between the support frame (7), the rear surface of the door (17), and the hinge connection (16).

25. The only difference between Watkins and the invention as claimed is that Watkins fails to teach a cover bracket capable of completely covering a triangular space between

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the support frame, the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection when the door is opened.

26. Jacobs, however, teaches a cover structure (36) capable of completely covering a triangular space between a support frame (16), the rear surface of a door (42), and a hinge connection (30) when the door is opened. The examiner points out that Jacobs also teaches a cover structure formed separate from the support frame (16) and the hinge connection (30); and that Jacobs is viewed as merely teaching a covering structure capable of completely covering a triangular space between a support frame, the rear surface of a door, and a hinge connection when the door is opened.

27. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the cover bracket of the structure of Watkins to completely cover the triangular space between the support frame, the rear surface of the door, and the hinge connection of said structure, as taught by Jacobs, in order to improve the aesthetic appearance & safety of said structure, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

Response to Arguments

28. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

29. Applicant's arguments regarding the objection to the drawings have been considered, and are persuasive. As such, this objection has therefore been withdrawn.

Conclusion

30. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

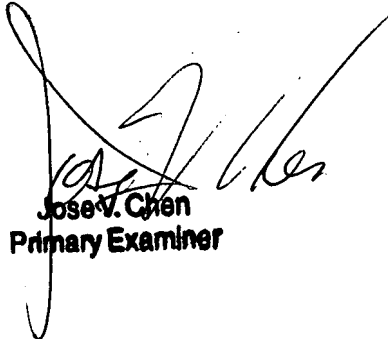
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MWI 
17 July 2007


Jose V. Chen
Primary Examiner